S H. 21 January 1705 King's Coll.

A COPIE OF THE LETTER,

Of the Nationall *Synod* of the Reformed Churches of FRANCE. Represented to the Kings Majesty.

TOGETHER,

With the Complaint made to his Majestie, concerning divers Aggrievances, at CAMPEIGNE the 16. of *September*, 1631. by the *two Deputies of the said Synod, Mr.* AMIRAVLT Minister, and Mr. DE VILLARS Gentleman.

WITH

The Answer and the Letter of his Majesty returned to the Synod.

LONDON,
Printed for NATH: BVTTER, and NICH: BOVRNE.
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THE COPIE OF THE CONTENTS of a Letter written from PARIS, the 3. of October, 1631. Concerning the Synod of the Reformed Churches.

TO leave other things, I passe to acquaint you with our Nationall *Synode*, and what hath happened in that Assembly, worthy of Observation.

In the beginning and entrance of the Nationall *Synode* convocated at *Paris*, the 1. of *September*, the Commissary Mr. *Galland*, in the Kings behalfe declared, that his Maj. prohibited three of the Deputies of that Assembly to take any place in the same *Synod*, to wit: M. *Basnage* one of the Pastors or Ministers deputyed for the Province of *Normandy*, M. *Berault* Pastor and Professor at *Montauban*, and M. *Bouterove*, Pastor and Minister of the Church of *Grenoble*. Monsi. *Bouterove* being happily arrived at the beginning, and before the rest at *Paris*, for some necessary affaires, had received the sayd prohibition. M. *Basnage* before ever he departed out of *Normandy*, was commanded not to remove thence in 6. Weekes.

As for M. *Berault*, being newly arrived at *Paris*, at the first entrance of the *Synod*, and having but taken his place in the *Synod*, the Commissary caused him to depart, in a rude manner.

The cauſe or ſubject of the interdiction of the ſayd Mr. *Berault*, was openly declared by the Commiſſary: As namely, that during the laſt troubles, he had compoſed or written ſome Booke, wherein he laboured to prove that the Miniſters themſelves might goe to Warres, fight and ſhed bloud. Which the Kings Councell finding to be very bad, had condemned the ſame Booke, and therefore would have the *Synod* to give Iudgment, and paſſe theyr Verdict concerning the ſame, which they have done, and condemned the ſame Propoſition, as a Doctrine not agreeable to our Beliefe.

As for the cauſe of the Interdiction of the other two, as I beleeve, the Commiſſary ſpoke nothing at all: becauſe they were not there preſent, and had not need to make them depart, for they had received their prohibition before hand from the King himſelfe. Onely I have heard ſomething concerning M. *Beaterove*, that the cauſe of his Interdiction was, becauſe he had written a book, in which he had (ſpeaking generally concerning the Church of *Rome*) ſhewed that the ſame Church doth hold divers *Maximes* dangerous and pernicious to the ſuperiour powers, which I am perſwaded would not have beene ſo haynouſly taken, if he had onely applyed his affirmation to ſome of the Romiſh Church, as namely the Ieſuites, and not ſet it downe generally. But it was his generall affirmation, which brought him that prejudice.

As for M. *Baſnage*, I know not of any particular cauſe that hath beene alledged againſt him, neyther have I heard of any, only we may ſuſpect that he is oppoſed becauſe he was in the laſt Aſſembly at *Rochel*, others beleeve, that the Commiſſary hath ſomething againſt him, who indeed is all in all in the carriage of theſe affaires. For ſince he was in that Aſſembly, he hath beene deputed to the other *Synod* Natio-

Nationall at *Charenton*, which was held 6. or 7. yeares a goe, neyther was there then any thing objected against him, or any difficulty made.

I did forget to tell you, concerning the sayd M. *Berault*, how that the Commissary did declare more; as namely, that the King did forbid him the Professorship in *Theology*. As also he said that his Mai. did forbid M. *Salbert* (who was formerly Minister at *Rochel*) to execute any ministeriall function in his Kingdome. The reason is, because he had solicited forraigne Princes to make warre against him. Nevertheless his Mai. permits him graciously to live in his Kingdome, as a particular man.

He sayes further, that his Mai. prohibites hereafter any strange Ministers to be received here, comprehending under the name of strangers, those who are of Countries allyed to his Mai. and those Townes that are under his protection. Permitting nevertheless, those that are already in charge, to continue without controlment. Declared also, that it was his Mai. will and pleasure, that our Provinciall *Synod* should hence forward be held at 2. certaine moneths of the yeare, & in 2. places of every Province, which he doth allow us to chuse. The nomination of the Deputies generall which was made here within our politique Assemblies, and since by our Nationall *Synods*, as the same was practised in the last Synod of *Castres*, hath this time beene onely done by the Commissary himselfe, so that the Synod was not permitted to deliberate in that. And the sayd Commissary declared, that it was the Kings pleasure, that the Marquesse *De Clermont* should continue the charge which hee hath exercised, ever since the Synod of *Castres*, and that the sonne of the said Commissary should be adioyned to the sayd Marquesse for a second Deputy,

ſo that Deputies are given to the Churches, without their deputation.

The *Synod* hath ſent to the King to ſalute his Majeſty, and offer him all ſubmiſſion and obedience, and to put up their ſupplication, and to make divers complaints to him. To this end they have deputed M. *Amirault*, Paſtor of the Church of *Saumur*, and *De Villars*, a Gentleman of *Dauphine*. Who among the reſt, had charge to require of his Maj. that thoſe who were in the beginning and entrance of the *Synod* excluded, might againe be admitted. That his Maj. would be pleaſed to permit Monſ. *Salberi* the free exerciſe of his Miniſtery, and to Monſ. *Berault*, forgetting all that is paſt. And that alſo he would give them leave to receive thoſe Miniſters and Paſtors ſeated within the County Townes, which are under his protection, as *Geneva* and *Sedan*. And that he would command that freedome and liberty of exerciſe might be reſtored almoſt to 80. or 100. Churches, where the ſame is debarred in divers Provinces. And that there may be a ceaſing of all thoſe harſh and violent proceedings againſt many Miniſters, who have been ill uſed, and very hardly dealt withal, onely for preaching of thoſe points of Doctrine, which are permitted and allowed to bee preached by his Edicts. And that the Miniſter of one place may not be forbidden or hindered to preach in another place, as in many places they are debarred from this liberty. When they have occaſion to paſſe through this or that Towne, or Village, being thereunto required. Nor to debarre the Miniſter of one Church, to preach in all Churches by Order.

For in ſome kind Miniſters are prohibited to preach in divers places, and thoſe whoſe charge extends to many,

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are confin'd and limited onely to one place. Alſo that his Majeſty would be pleaſed to cauſe many Proteſtants who are moſt miſerably kept and made Gally-ſlaves, ever ſince the laſt troubles, to be delivered. For notwithſtanding that his Majeſty ſo graciouſly hath granted an abolition of all that is paſt by his Letters Patents, and granted a generall peace to all his Subjects, theſe nevertheleſſe are not reſtored to liberty. This is all that I can remember concerning the complaints made to his Majeſty.

The Anſwer given them was this. That they ſhould be anſwered and reſolved when their *Synod* ſhould bee broken up, but not before. Onely Mounſieur *Baſnage* and *Berault*, were permitted to enter into the Aſſembly of the *Synod*, but not Monſ. *Bonterowe*.

This is all I can impart to you, concerning the preſent affaires of the *Synod*: At returne of the Deputies I ſhall be able better to informe you.

Copy of the Letter of the *Nationall Synod* of the Reformed Churches of *France*, preſented to the *Kinge Maieſtie*.

SOVERAIGNE,

BEing here aſſembled together, through the gracious permiſſion of your Maieſty: It hath beene our firſt and chiefeſt care, (after the lifting up of our hands to heaven, in thankesgiving, for that it hath pleaſed Almighty God to cauſe us to finde favour in the ſight of your Maj.) to render our moſt humble and hearty thankes to your Maieſty, as to his lively Image. Truſting that as the ſame God doth not only heare the humble Prayers of his Children, but alſo doth receive their Complaints, and doth remedy their griefe and ſorrowes, ſo alſo your Maieſty will imitate him in the ſame: and will together with

with the humble teſtification of our duty, receive the ſupplications of your poore Subjects, afflicted in divers manner of Wayes. Who uſing no other but innocent meanes, have no other refuge but to your Mai. bounty, nor no other confidence but to your royall Clemency. Be your Maieſty therefore graciouſly pleaſed to permit the Lord Amyrant, *and* De Villars, *to caſt downe themſelves at your feet, to renew unto your Mai. the ſincere Proteſtations of our moſt humble fidelity, ſubiection, and ſervice, and to acquaint you with the infractions and breaches of your royall Edicts, made almoſt in all the Provinces of your Kingdome. In the meane while we doe not onely in our owne name, but alſo in the name of many thouſands of Soules, which make profeſſion of our Religion, and for whoſe ſake we are here aſſembled, under your Royall and Fatherly goodneſſe, continue our humble Supplications to Almighty God, for the proſperity of your Sacred perſon, the maintainance and affirmation of your* Scepter, *the managing of your State, Triumph and Victory of your armes, and the Benediction of your royall Bed, As being alwayes*

SOVERAIGNE,

The moſt humble, moſt obedient, and faithfull Subjects and Servants of your Maj. The Deputies at the Nationall Synod aſſembled at *Charenton*. And in the name of all the reſt,

Meſtreſat,	*Moderator.*
Iamet,	*Adioyn'd.*
Blondell,	*Secretarie.*
Armet,	*Secretarie.*

The

THE COMPLAINT MADE TO THE French King at *Compeigne*, the 16. of *September*, 1631. by Mr. AMYRANT *Minister*, and Mr. DE VILLARS Gentleman: Both of them Deputed of the Synod of the Reformed *Churches*.

SOVERAIGNE,

YOur most humble Subjects and servants the Deputies assembled in the Nationall *Synod* at *Charenton*, acknowledging with thankfulnesse, the freedome and liberty which they doe injoy by your Maiesties gracious permission: Come now in our persons to bend their knees and humbly to bow themselves before your Majesty, to doe you homage and reverence. With all the sensibleneesse of your favour, and so much thankfulnesse as the spirit of man is capable of. O Soveraigne they cannot but admire the providence of God, who hath bent and inclined your Royall heart towards them, & also towards those which they have sent from all parts of your Kingdome, and your Majesties clemencie, who hath pursued and followed these kinde and favourable inclinations, after so many and lamentable desolations, granting them the gracious sight of the favourable face of their Soveraigne, and being present to the eyes of all *France*, to treate upon matters concerning their Religion, and to eare the most humble supplications which they make to your Maiesty. This favour, Deare Soveraigne, they are more sensible of, than they can sufficiently meditate on, or verbally expresse. Yea, the same gracious favour, hath reduced us unto those duties, which both Nature and Conscience hath so strictly tyed us, and which devoir and obedience is so

particularly recommended unto us, by the same Religion which we professe and teach: namely, to worship your Maj. as being the lively Image of God amongst us. And to keepe your Commandement (after those in *Theology*) inviolable, and with all obedience and conscience, to depend wholly on your authority, and to have no other but your fatherly care and providence, for our defence and protection. As likewise to pray God from the intimate and sincere desires of our hearts, for the conservation and prosperity of your sacred person, the peace and greatnesse of your state, the glory of your Crowne and name, and the happy and good successe of all your magnanimous enterprizes; and to exhort and instigate all your Subiects, which are of the same profession with us, freely to spend their lives, and spill their bloud for the service of your Maj. upon all occasions. To this end, we come to request your Maj. to assure your selfe that they all have a Cordiall devotion, and entyre resolution to this effect.

But, O Soveraigne, as your goodnesse & clemency doth excite & strengthen in us these good intentions, and motions, so likewise doth the same yeeld the boldnesse to complain before your gracious Maj. in all profound humility, that these good effects of your Maj gracious pleasure towards us, are in divers places hindered and stayed by evil oppositions. For notwithstanding your Maj. hath by solemne declarations from time to time confirmed his Edicts for the freedome and liberty of the exercise of our Religion, nevertheless within this 3. yeares the same liberty hath utterly beene taken away, beyond the former disputations, In *Xaintonge* in 24. places, in *Sevennes* in 19. In lower *Languedocke* in 20. in *Vivarets* in 29. and likewise in many places more, which as yet have not obtained their reestablishment. As for the remainder of our

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Churches, in the use of the benefits of your Edicts, a great part of the same will utterly be lost in a moment, if those arrests given in your Maj. owne Councell, for the prohibiting of Ministers to preach in places remote from their owne habitations and abode, be put in execution.

In the yeare 1623. we were forbidden by your Maiesty from thence forward to receive any Ministers that were strangers borne. Vnto which we have with great respect and submission willingly obeyed. But now this prohibition, as by your Maj. Commissaries extended even to those places which are within your Maj. own protection. Which formerly hath not beene so, and which unto us seemes a very strange restraint of our ancient liberties, and unto those Countries, a testimony of the diminution of your Maj. good will towards them.

But O Soveraigne, here is that which is worse, namely that notwithstanding by your Maj. owne Edicts, liberty be granted unto us, to preach the doctrine of our beliefe, nevertheless many of our Ministers are extreamly prosecuted by Proctors generall, in the Parliament of *Toulouse* and *Bordeaux*, and especially for this cause, namely for preaching that which by your Maj. permission, and your predecessor before you, long since, hath beene preached publikely in your Kingdome.

Neither are the Ministers only those that doe tast of, & are experienced with the malice borne to our Religion, but all the rest are equally sensible thereof. For so far is it frō thence, that any of our Religion is admitted vnto any eminent charge within your Parliaments, that the very meane Proctors are quite rejected. Yea in the inferior places, the very Sergeants are repulsed. In the Vniversities the Dignity & title of a Dr. is refused, be it either to those that desire to proceed in Physick or other profession. In your cōmon

Cities and Townes, freedome is denyed unto them in the meaneſt and pooreſt Mechanick Trades. Notwithſtanding that your Maj. Edicts in theſe things, afford all your ſubjects an equall condition.

As for the liberty which it hath pleaſed your Majeſty to uſe towards us a long time, and the continuation of the which, we have alwayes hoped for, and eſpecially we expected as much at *Caſtres*, as alſo verified to us by many grants which have ſo favourably accompanied your Maj. mercifull grace towards us; there have many yeares paſſed in the which we have ſeene no effects at all of the ſame. Thus is the teſtimony of your Maj. gracious favour and good will toward, cut off and obſcured. And ſo preſently we are deprived of that juſt and reaſonable recompence, which was granted unto us (by your late Father of glorious and immortall memory) for the tythes which we doe pay unto the Clergy.

And whereas our *Synods* are ſo conducent and profitable for our ſubſiſtence, and notwithſtanding the ſame, be ſo openly tolerated by your Majeſties owne Edicts, nevertheleſſe, we doe meet with abundance of oppoſition and contradiction. The Lords, the Governours of your Provinces, eyther refuſing, or otherwiſe delaying the nomination of the Commiſſaries.

As for that *Synod* Nationall which now by your Gracious permiſſion we are aſſembled at, give us leave to tell you, O Soveraigne, that after wee had waited 5. yeares, the ſame was interdicted and prohibited to M. *Baſnage*, M. *Bouterove*, and *Berault*, who were deputed and thereunto, and who ſhould neyther have voyce nor agreement there, but onely for your Maj. ſervice. Laſtly, (which indeed we cannot ſpeake or expreſſe without feare and trembling, & which we hope will move your compaſſion)

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your Maj. hath granted a free pardon to so many others, yet above a hundred Protestants at this day, remaining in Gallyes and other slaveries, are kept in that miserable, ignominious, and wofull suffering. O lamenaable mishap, which returnes us backe to the wounds and suffering, for the cause of our Profession, and which will not yeeld unto our posterity the just cause of acknowledging those royall vertues in your Maj. but will diminish the splendor of the glory of your Maj. clemency.

Wherefore (deare Soveraigne) we doe must humbly intreat and supplicate your Maj. by the Authority which your Lawes ought to have amongst all your Subjects, by the constancy and firmenesse of your Royall word, by the equity and Iustice which hath procured you a title more glorious than that of *Alexander*, or *Cæsar*, by the *Debonarith* and meekenesse, which is as it were naturall to your Maj. and in the which are ingraven all the good actions of Princes, by your liberality; a vertue so worthy of a great King, and by the tendernesse of your compassions, in the which humaine Nature doth approach unto Divine, more than in any thing, that you would be pleased for the restauration of the poore dispersed Churches, to regrant the ancient vigour unto your Edicts, to revoke the stayes and obstacles, and arrests, which teare and rent them in pieces. To permit that we may receive into our Ministery, those who are borne in the Soveraignties and Common-weales of your Maj. protection, to cause all prosecutions of your Proctors, generall to cease against us, and to impose silence upon them, to open againe unto us the entrance into our Trades and functions. And if so far we may finde grace in the face of your Maj to grant unto us (in publike charges and dignities) assignations and assurance for what is past, and order for the time to come, to ease by your authority,

the ſtay and detainement of our *Synods*, Prouincionall, and Nationall, to reſtore vnto thoſe aboue mentioned, the place which their Deputation gaue them, to giue Charge and command, that the chaynes and ſhackles of thoſe miſerable Caitiffes which in ſo long ſpace haue had no comfort or hope heretofore, but onely in the very thought and meditation of your Majeſties clemency. And if it ſhall pleaſe your Maj. to receiue our moſt humble requeſt, and grant them, and giue vs the aſſurance of the ſame, by cauſing fauourably and promptly anſwer to be giuen by the Lords of your Councell, to the end that with great contentment wee may carry backe with vs ſatisfaction to all thoſe who haue ſent vs, and may diſperſe the Ioy thereof into all the Prouinces of your Majeſties Kingdome: Beſides the acclamation of ſo many thouſands which expect ſo good tydings, and the delight which will returne backe to your Majeſties owne heart. For hauing imitated God himſelfe, who delights in the exerciſe of Iuſtice and Mercy, to whomſoeuer hee is pleaſed to retaine; your Majeſt. ſhall receiue for recompence, the abundant benedictions from Heaven, which wee will draw downe vpon your head by our ardent vowes, and aſſiduall prayers. For as concerning the Affection which wee ought to haue vnto your Majeſties ſeruice, although indeed by your Beneficence, you might augment and redouble our Obligations, yet wee dare boldly and humbly proteſt, that the ſame is come to that point. (O Soueraigne) that henceforward it is almoſt impoſſible that the ſame ſhould be increaſed.

And although heretofore wee haue not in obedience beene inferiour to the beſt of your Maieſties Subiects, yet in time to come wee will ſurpaſſe and abound more and more, to which end wee will adde all our endeuours.

This

This it is that wee your Moſt humble and moſt Obedient Servants had to declare vnto your Sacred Majeſtie.

The Anſwer of his Majeſty vnto the former Complaint.

I Haue heard and vnderſtood all that you have ſayd. You may fully aſſure your ſelves that I will maintaine you in my Edicts. Give me your Demonſtration, and I will ſee it in my Councell.

Here followes a Letter of his Majeſty, written and ſent to the Synod.

By the King.

Deare and welbeloved.

WEe have ſeene by your Letter dated the third of this Moneth, and vnderſtood by the mouth of our Deputies, and the relation which they have preſented to Vs concerning the affaires of your preſent Synod, *Convocated by our permiſſion in that Place called* Charenton. *And becauſe Wee have made your Deputies partly acquainted with our intention, and doe more particularly charge Monſieur* Galland *with the ſame, wee will not be tedious or preſize at this preſent. Onely thus much, that I deſire you to put a full truſt and confidence in what ſoever the ſaid Monſieur* Galland *ſhall ſay vnto you in Our behalfe. Aſſuring you moreover, that as wee have very good ſa-*

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tisfaction in the proceeding of your said Synod, and also of your Deputies, you shall receive ample proofes of our good will towardr you when soever occasion shall be offered.

Given at Monctaun, *the* 21. *of September*, 1631.

Signed, LOWIS.

Lower, PHELYPEAVX.

And titled above thus.

To our deare and welbeloved, the Deputies of the Nationall *Synod* of those our Subiects which make profession of the Religion, pretended the reformed Religion, assembled by Our permission at *Charenton*.

FINIS.